

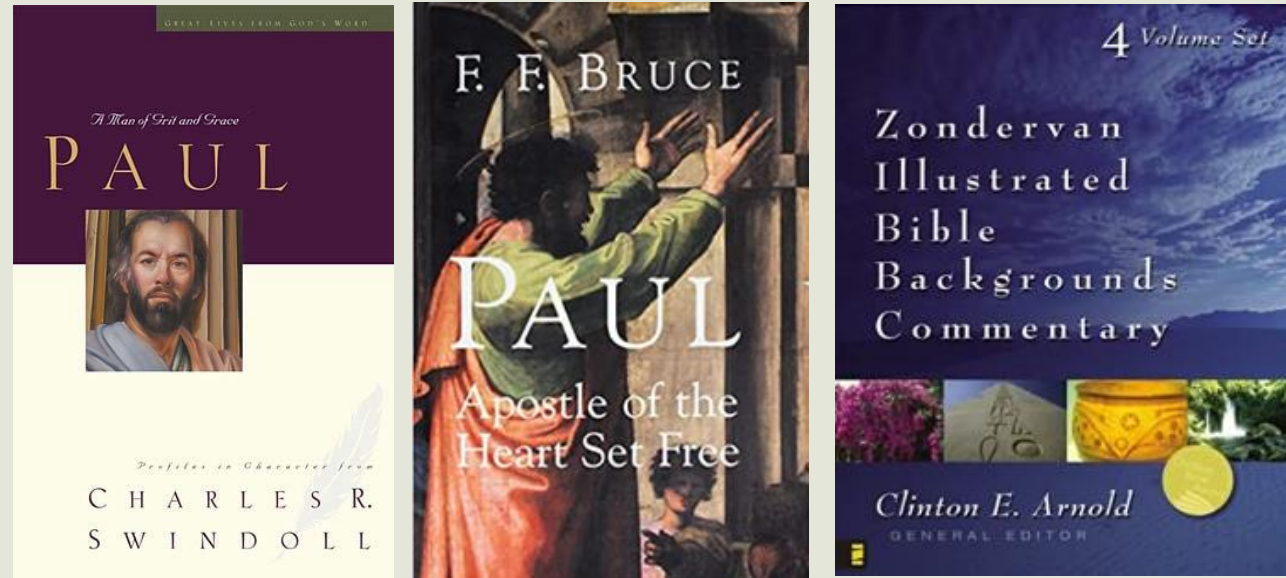
The background is a dark grey chalkboard with various white chalk sketches. On the left, there is a large drawing of a microscope. Above it is a globe showing continents. Below the microscope is a stack of books. In the bottom center, there is an open book with some illegible text. To the right of the open book are several mathematical symbols: a percentage sign, an exclamation point, and a less-than sign. The overall theme is educational and scientific.

# Paul – Lesson 11

## New Testament Studies

CBC B&B Sunday School  
June 25, 2023

# Source Material



Companion Sources

# Lesson 11 Intro...

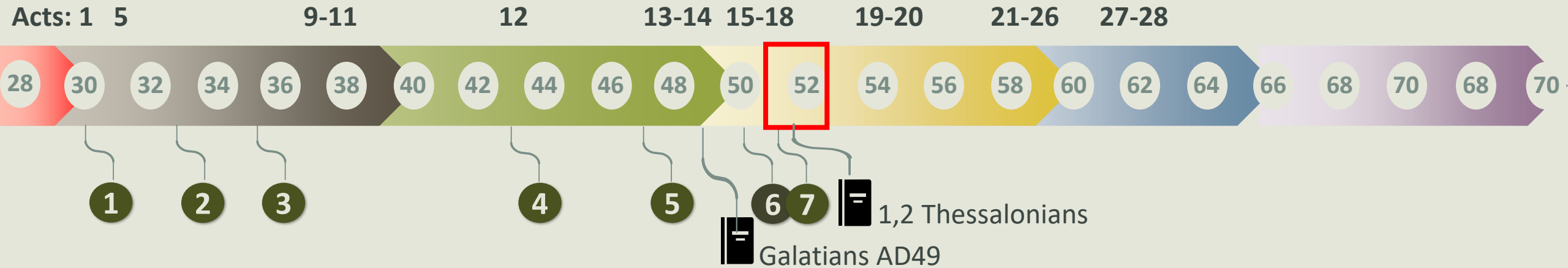
- Acts 17 (~ AD 51):
  - Paul was in Thessalonica where he continues to reason with Jews and God fearing Gentiles. Unpersuaded Jews stir up the city that forced Paul to leave
  - Paul fled to Berea to continue his ministry, but the troublemaking Jews from Thessalonica followed and stir up trouble. Paul then fled to Athens
  - In Athens, Paul debated with philosophers and Athenians about how to define a God, and the purpose of believing in the One True God



# Acts 18:1-22 [NASB]

## The Tolls of Ministry

# Chronology of Acts / Life & Ministry of Paul



1 Ascension – Acts 1  
Pentecost – Acts 2  
Apostles before Sanhedrin – Acts 5

2 Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7

3 Paul's Conversion – Acts 9

4 Paul to Antioch – Acts 11

5 Paul's First Missionary Journey – Acts 13-14

6 Jerusalem Council – Acts 15

7 Paul's Second Missionary Journey Begins

# Acts 18 Timeline

A comparison of the movements of Paul and his coworkers described in 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10 with the accounts of Acts 17-18 suggests the following sequence of events that likely took place:

- Paul arrived in Athens having left Silas and Timothy behind in Berea (Acts 17:14)
- Paul left instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him in Athens as soon as possible (Acts 17:15)
- Silas and Timothy arrived in Athens (1 Thess 3:1)
- Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to check on the church (1 Thess 3:1-5)
- Paul sent Silas somewhere in Macedonia, possibly Philippi (Acts 18:5; Phil 4:10-20)
- Timothy and Silas returned to Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:5; 1 Thess 3:6)

# Acts 18 Timeline

As it relates to 1 & 2 Thessalonians:

- Timothy reports to Paul about several concerns (1 Thess 3:6-10), prompting Paul to write 1 Thessalonians, sending Timothy to deliver the letter.
- Within weeks after the first letter, a false teacher with a forged letter allegedly from Paul infected the church (2 Thess 2:1-2), prompting Paul to write 2 Thessalonians. Timothy likely delivered that letter.



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# Paul's Second Missionary Journey





# Acts 18:1-4 [NASB]

After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> And he found a Jew named **Aquila**, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla**, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, <sup>3</sup> and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. <sup>4</sup> And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

# Paul's Friendship with Aquila / Priscilla

<sup>3</sup> Greet **Priscilla and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup> who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

Romans 16:3-4 (NASB)

<sup>19</sup> The churches of Asia greet you. **Aquila and Priscilla** greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

1 Corinthians 16:19 (NASB)

<sup>19</sup> Greet **Priscilla and Aquila**, and the household of Onesiphorus.

2 Timothy 4:19 (NASB)

# Acts 18:5-8 [NASB]

<sup>5</sup> But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul *began* devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. <sup>6</sup> But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood *be* on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” <sup>7</sup> Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, **whose house was next to the synagogue.** <sup>8</sup> Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.



# Acts 18:9-11 [NASB]

<sup>9</sup> And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “**Do not be afraid *any longer***, but go on speaking and do not be silent; <sup>10</sup> for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” <sup>11</sup> And he settled *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

**Why was Paul Afraid???**

# 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 [NASB]

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, <sup>4</sup> and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

# 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 [NASB]

Class Discussion –  
Observations about Culture in Corinth



# 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 [NASB]

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# 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 [NASB]

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; <sup>27</sup> but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no man may boast before God. <sup>30</sup> But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

# Culture in Corinth

- Diversity of Deities / Multiple Religions / Multiple Temples
- Leaders promote their academic achievements to woo followers (1 Cor 1:26)
- Many gifted in speech and use of persuasive words (1 Cor 2:1,4)
- People attracted to wisdom of men (1 Cor 2:5)
- Paul's Message:
  - Man's wisdom and nobility of the flesh is foolishness to God (1 Cor 1:27-29)
  - Keep the message simple – Christ Crucified (1 Cor 2:1-5)



# Acts 18:9-11 [NASB]

<sup>9</sup> And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “**Do not be afraid *any longer***, but go on speaking and do not be silent; <sup>10</sup> for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” <sup>11</sup> And he settled *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

**Why was Paul Afraid???**

# Paul's Mission Journal

- Breakup with longtime friend Barnabas (Acts 15:26-41)
- Recruited Timothy (Acts 16:1-3)
- **Ministry plans did not go well** (Acts 16:6-8)
- Receive Calling to go to Macedonia (Acts 16:9-10)
- Evangelized in Philippi to Lydia and others, cast out demon in slave girl (Acts 16:16-18)
- **Persecuted, beaten, severely flogged, jailed** for casting out demon (Acts 16:19-24)
- Evangelized to prisoners in jail, Roman guard (Acts 16:25-34)
- Challenged Roman authorities for punishment without trial as Roman citizens (Acts 16:35-40)
- Summary of **Philippi experience** (1 Thess 2:1-2)

# Paul's Mission Journal

- Evangelized in Thessalonica, **escape beating, persecuted**, snuck out of town (Acts 17:1-9)
- Evangelized in Berea, deal with troublemaking Jews, **escaped to Athens** (Acts 17:10-15; 1 Thess 3:1)
- Evangelized in Athens, debated with Philosophers (Acts 17:16-34)
- Traveled to Corinth, **out of funding**, had to work (Acts 18:1-3)
- Strong desire to see believers in Thessalonica, **but could not** (1 Thess 2:17-18)
- **Those unpersuaded Jews!!**

# Acts 18:12-17 [NASB]

<sup>12</sup> But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, <sup>13</sup> saying, “This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.” <sup>14</sup> But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; <sup>15</sup> but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.” <sup>16</sup> And he drove them away from the judgment seat. <sup>17</sup> And they all took hold of **Sosthenes**, the leader of the synagogue, and *began* beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.



# Acts 18:18-22 [NASB]

<sup>18</sup> Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila.

In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for **he was keeping a vow**. <sup>19</sup> They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. <sup>20</sup> When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, <sup>21</sup> but taking leave of them and saying, “I will return to you again if God wills,” he set sail from Ephesus.

<sup>22</sup> When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.

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# *Paul's Second Missionary Journey*



# Principles I

- **Doing ministry for the advancement of the Gospel message is a difficult task. Don't do it alone** – Jesus began his ministry by recruiting a team; Paul's mission journeys also operated with teams. Team members are needed not only to provide active support to share the burden, but also to provide encouragement and help with funding support. Before setting out on a mission or a ministry program, start by recruiting a team; then delegate team responsibilities to cover the various needs of the ministry for the long journey to counter the tolls of ministry. Control our zeal, and don't start without a team.



# Principles II

- **When doing ministry is wearing you out, wise to slow things down** – Paul was worn out by the time he arrived in Corinth. He needed time to rest and to establish some form of stability. This could explain why he spent so much time in Corinth, whereas in all of his previous stops, his zeal and his drive led him to move from city to city in much shorter time periods. Slowing things down should not be viewed as failing to do God's work. It simply means to be restored, or refueled. A worn out ministry worker is of little use, especially as a minister.



# Principles III

- **Always keep the God at the forefront of all your ministry decisions** – For God to speak to Paul in a vision to encourage him to press on speaks to Paul’s state of mind at the time. Paul himself stated that he was fearful, and probably thinking about quitting, or possibly rolling back his activities. This is what the tolls of ministry can do to any minister – having endured all of the persecution and personal sacrifices for the sake of the Gospel. Therefore, ministers, pastors, and those leading ministry programs must always maintain a “God angle”, meditating on the Word of God daily and ensuring that key decisions are filtered through God in prayers, especially as it affects your ministry objective.

# Questions